REMARKS

Claims 1-44 are pending in the application. All claims stand finally rejected. Claims 1-44 stand provisionally rejected under the judicial-doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting based on co-pending Application No. 08/766,607. Claims 1-44 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Wilska in view of Takahara. A Notice of Appeal is being filed concurrently with this request.

At issue are the teachings of Takahara. Because the Examiner's representation is contrary to the express teachings of Takahara, the Applicants would appreciate withdrawal of the rejections under Section 103 without the need to file a Brief on Appeal.

As claimed, the Applicants employ a power management circuit to lower the power consumption of a control circuit. The control circuit receives image data and generates display data based on the image data. The display data is provided to an matrix LCD by the control circuit for presenting an image. The image is illuminated by a light source after which the power management circuit lowers the power consumption of the control circuit until the next image from the control circuit is ready to be presented to the matrix display.

As expressly recited, the Applicants' claimed power management circuit affects the control circuit. That limitation is recited in all claims.

Takahara, in contrast, does nothing to affect a control circuit. Instead Takahara reduces the power consumption of its light source. The light source is different from the control circuit, both in the Applicants' claims and in Takahara.

As explained by Takahara, "the power consumption of a viewfinder employing on LCD panel amounts up to 1.1 W" of which 1.0 W is consumed by the light source power. (Col. 5, 11. 12-16.) This is because fluorescent tubes having a heater voltage of 2.5 V and an anode voltage of 18 V are used for the light source. Takahara therefore seeks to lower the power consumption of the light emitting tubes.

Takahara modulates the anode voltage with a pulse signal, which cycles at 60 Hz. By varying the pulse width, the quantity of emitted light can be varied proportionately. Using a 50% pulse width, the power consumption of the light emitting tube is said to be reduced to 0.25 W.

Adding in the power consumption of the LCD (0.1 W) brings the power to "slightly greater than 0.3 W. (Col. 31, 1. 62.)

Although Takahara expressly reduces the power consumption of the light emitting tubes, the Office Action asserts that the control circuit is impacted. Indeed, the Office Action asserts that the "Light Emitting Tube Power Supply Circuit" (Fig. 22, ref. 223) lowers the power to the "Reproduction Circuit" (Fig. 22, ref. 225). As suggest by its name, and discussed in the detailed description, the "Light Emitting Tube Power Supply Circuit" supplies power to the light emitting tube (Fig. 22, ref. 211). The Office Action is clearly in error.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S. C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If a telephone conference could expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (978) 341-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

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